

- This then is the essence of the crisis:
- Iraq's action has breached international peace and security and the essence of international law;
  - Iraq's occupation of Kuwait has been condemned and rejected by an overwhelming preponderance of the international community; and
  - Iraq has failed to comply with the UN Security Council resolutions which reflect this resolve.

If peaceful means do not produce the necessary compliance, the UN Charter envisages the use of force to ensure compliance with the resolutions the Security Council has passed.

The risks of military engagement between Iraq and the international consensus arrayed against it are real. And the human, political and economic costs of such a conflict would be real and substantial. The consequences would certainly be enormous for the whole Middle East region. The costs to Iraq are potentially catastrophic. But there is a greater catastrophe: to allow Iraq to succeed.

Such a conflict is not inevitable. But Iraq must understand the conviction and determination of the international community. It is evident that Iraq only understands the language of strength. The most effective way to establish peace is to ensure Iraqi understanding that the alternative to compliance will be the use of force.

Iraq's use of force cannot be rewarded except at peril to the foundation of international peace and security. Over the decades since the end of the Second World War, Canada has invested enormous effort in international institution-building on the basis of that foundation and in the creation of effective means to achieve the peaceful settlement of disputes. Iraq has to be convinced to withdraw and use these.

Measures and fora for the peaceful settlement of disputes such as those which ostensibly motivated Iraq's action have long existed and successfully resolved international disputes over territory, navigation and the sharing of oil, mineral and other resources and revenues without armed conflict. The International Court of Justice (ICJ) is the best known of these institutions; the Permanent Court of Arbitration has procedures for the establishment